

Rogue River Courier.

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GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1903.

No. 32.

SAW THE AURORA BOREALIS

Display Witnessed by the Ows of Several Cities.

Friday at midnight, Portland and Seattle were treated to a display of Aurora Borealis, or light streamers in the northern sky, it having considerable effect on the magnetic needle and telegraph wires for a couple of hours. It was plainly visible in Ashland at 2 o'clock Saturday morning and was witnessed by Telegraph Operator G. F. Wilson and others. The body of the light was of a red that throwing out bright white rays at times, almost to the zenith. It was seen early Saturday morning by Geo. S. Enbanks, when it seemed to rest on the horizon and a beautiful spray of bright white streamers spread upward. —Ashland Tribune.

The serious disturbance due to the Aurora Borealis caused great interference with telegraph wires all over the world. Ocean cables were read and almost useless, and telegraph and

long distance telephone communication was at times almost wholly suspended.

At the climax of the disturbance there were over 676 volts electricity enough to kill a man—in the wires at Chicago, without the battery attached. An hour later the trouble had virtually disappeared.

Confessions of a Priest.

Rev. Jno. S. Cox of Wake, Ark., writes: "For 12 years I suffered from Yellow Jaundice. I consulted a number of physicians and tried all sorts of medicines but got no relief. Then I began the use of Electric Bitters and feel that I am now cured of a disease that had me in its grasp for 12 years." If you want a reliable medicine for Liver and Kidney trouble stomach disorder or general debility get Electric Bitters. Its guaranteed by National Drug Store and Grants Pass Pharmacy. Only 50c.

Remember Joseph Moss has the largest list of real estate with the best prices and best terms. Office on E street, west of Sixth street.

CITY WARRANTS WORTH 97

Warrants Issued to November, 1900, Called in.

Grants Pass city warrants are bringing a higher price than formerly. They now bring 97 cents as against 95 last year. Calls have been made for warrants issued to November 1, 1900. A short time ago they were four years and seven months behind. Col. Johnson the city treasurer has been elected to the office eight times in succession and as he is everything that an efficient treasurer should be he will probably receive another unanimous election this fall.

Mothers

Who would keep their children in good health should watch for the first symptoms of worms and remove them with White's Cream Vermifuge. It is the children's best tonic. It gets digestion at work so that their food does them good and they grow up healthy and strong. 25c at Sliver Drug Co.

HISTORY IS OVERLOOKED

First Gold Discovered on Pacific Coast Was Found in Oregon.

The following article on the famous "Blue Bucket" mine appeared in Sunday's Oregonian:

History records the fact that gold was first discovered on the Pacific Coast by John Marshall, at Sutter's mill, in what is now El Dorado County, California, in 1848.

As a matter of fact gold was found by an immigrant train on the old Steve Meek's Cut-Off, in Crook or Harney county in Eastern Oregon, between the Malheur and Deschutes rivers in 1845. This fact can be sufficiently attested by living witnesses. The Native Sons and Daughters of Oregon should see to it that such is done in honor to their state.

Before touching upon the story of the lost Blue Bucket diggings, I wish to remark that I am aware that any man, woman or child, negro, Indian or Chinese who attempts to particularize either as to the supposed location of this lost mine, or as to the quantity of gold will rise a storm of protest and contest, such as no man would desire. Personally the writer has investigated at least two score of versions of both, and no two of them agree in detail, but all correspond in the essential fact, that gold was actually found.

In giving my version of the Blue Bucket diggings, as they are familiarly called, I will explain how it comes to me and by whom. My grandfather and his family were in the train that broke the trail afterward known as Meek's Cut-Off. My father was at the time a boy 14 years of age. He told me the full particulars in a different country, having permanently removed from Oregon in 1859. It was not the train he was in that found the gold, but one following them, and he repeated to me from memory, the story as told at the time, being unaltered by versions of modern years.

The train, encamped on a small stream somewhat along the rim of the Harney Basin, there being hills to the northward and the level stretch of the desert to the south. A freshet had slinked out the gulch, leaving the bed rock bare. A lady passing over this bare bed rock, picked up some pieces of yellow metal and came into camp, carrying it in her apron, and called attention to it. No one seemed to know what it was, and when she was asked how much of the metal she could have picked up if she wished, she pointed to a wooden water bucket painted blue and replied she thought she could have picked up that bucket full in a little while; hence the name given this lost mine, "the Blue Bucket diggings."

The suggestion being made by some that it might be gold brought the wise man to the fore. He is ever with us, and it is upon these special occasions that he is wont to exhibit his marvelous wisdom. He explained that gold and silver were the only metals that had a natural ring to them, (he had evidently forgotten that it was the alloy in coin that gave it its "ring.") He forthwith hammered a piece out flat upon the wagon tire and tested it for the ring. As it would not ring he promptly pronounced it brass; (he had evidently also forgotten that brass was not a specific metal, but a composition) hence some times called the Wagon Tire diggings.

Some of this gold found its way into the Willamette valley, being preserved as curios, but it was not until after the discovery of gold in California that those people knew what they had found and lost upon the old immigration trail.

The old Blue Bucket has not been re-discovered. A much-credited version that Canyon City was the place is undoubtedly erroneous. After a personal examination of the country, I am confident upon this point.

Another error made by these old pioneers, and it is still extant, is the confounding of Crooked River with the John Day River. They struck Crooked River near Prineville and mistook it for the John Day. They did not touch the John Day, leaving it to the north and eastward of their route. JOHN L. HIGGS, Merlin, Ore., Oct. 28, 1903.

MRS. BOOTH-TUCKER KILLED

In a Frightful Railroad Wreck Thursday.

Mrs. Booth Tucker, wife of Gen. Booth Tucker, head of the Salvation Army forces of the world, was killed and her body horribly mangled in a terrible railway accident on the Santa Fe line, which occurred near Dean Lake, Missouri, about 2 o'clock last Thursday morning. The train was running about 40 miles an hour when a broken chain caught in a switch and four coaches were hurled from the track and crashed against a large steel water tank. Besides Mrs. Tucker, who was killed, Col. Hubbard, of the Salvation Army, was perhaps fatally hurt, and 245 other persons were severely injured, several of whom may die. Mrs. Tucker was en route to New York from a visit to Amity Colony, Colorado. Her husband arrived at Chicago this morning to meet her, and when told of her tragic death, the aged commander was prostrated with grief. The body of Mrs. Tucker will be taken to London for burial beside her mother.

Tablets and box paper at cost at the Courier office to clean out. We have up-to-date styles.

THANKSGIVING DAY IS SET

President Issues Proclamation Fixing Nov. 26 as the Time.

The president Saturday issued his annual Thanksgiving proclamation in the following terms:

"By the president of the United States of America—A proclamation: 'The season is at hand when, according to the customs of our people, it falls upon the president to appoint a day of praise and thanksgiving to God. During the last year, the Lord has dealt bountifully with us, giving us peace at home and abroad, and the chance for our citizens to work for their welfare unhindered by war, famine or plague. It behooves us not only to rejoice greatly because of what has been given us, but to accept it with a solemn sense of responsibility, realizing that under heaven it rests with ourselves to show that we are worthy to use aright what has thus been entrusted to our care.

"In no other place, and at no other time, has the experiment of government of the people, by the people and for the people been tried on so vast a scale as here in our own country in the opening years of the 20th century. Failure would not only be a dreadful thing for us, but a dreadful thing for all mankind, because it would mean a loss of hope for all who believe in the power and the righteousness of liberty.

"Therefore, in thanking God for the mercies extended to us in the past, we beseech Him that He may not withhold them in the future, and our hearts may be aroused to war steadfastly for good and against all forces of evil, public and private. We pray for strength and light, so that in the coming years we may, with cleanliness, fearlessness and wisdom, do our allotted work on earth in such manner as to show that we are not altogether unworthy of the blessings we have received.

"Now, therefore, I, Theodore Roosevelt, president of the United States, do hereby designate as a day of general thanksgiving, Thursday, the 26th of the coming November, and do recommend that throughout the land, people cease from their wonted occupations, and in their several homes and places of worship, render thanks to Almighty God for his manifold mercies.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

"Done at the City of Washington, this 21st day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and three, and of the independence of the United States, the one hundred and twenty-eighth.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT, President.

"JOHN HAY, Secretary of State."

YOUNG IS COMMISSIONER

Educational Exhibit for Oregon at St. Louis Fair.

J. H. Ackerman, supt. of Public Instruction for Oregon has issued the following circular:

To the School Directors, Superintendents, Principals and Teachers in the Public Schools of Oregon:

The Louisiana Purchase Exposition is to be held in St. Louis in 1904, and for the first time in the history of enterprises of this kind, the Department of Education has been assigned first place, and a separate building has been provided for the educational exhibit and a comparative display from all the leading nations of the world.

It is earnestly desired by this department that Oregon shall take its proper place as a leading exhibitor in that department. The great interest heretofore manifested by the people of Oregon in all matters pertaining to education, justify the expectation of hearty co-operation in the preparation of an educational display that will intelligently and effectively illustrate Oregon's school system and the results achieved in all lines of work.

Prof. F. G. Young of Grants Pass has been appointed as the educational exhibit commissioner for Oregon, and Supt. H. S. Lyman as superintendent, and these gentlemen have, in conjunction with the committee appointed for this purpose by the State Teacher's Association, prepared a circular containing suggestions and plans for preparing a creditable exhibition, which you will receive in due time. All inquiries and communications should be addressed to Supt. H. S. Lyman, 308 Vine street, Portland, Oregon.

Firmly believing that all will take hold of the matter with zeal and enthusiasm to the end that this exhibition of school work will be the best in the history of the State, I am,

Yours truly,
J. H. ACKERMAN,
Supt. Public Instruction.

Do You Want to Yawn?

Feel cold shiverings, aching in bones, lack of energy, headache, and great depression? These symptoms may be followed by violent headache, high fever, extreme nervousness, a condition known as malaria. Herbine cures it. J. A. Hopkins, Manchester, Kan., writes: "I have used your great medicine, Herbine, for several years. There is nothing better for malaria, chills and fever, headache, biliousness, and for a blood-purifying tonic, there is nothing as good. 50c at Sliver Drug Co."

Saved Two From Death.

Our little daughter had an almost fatal attack of whooping cough and bronchitis," writes Mrs. W. Haviland of Armonk, N.Y., "but when all other remedies failed we saved her life with Dr. King's New Discovery. Our niece who had consumption in an advanced stage also used this wonderful medicine and today she is perfectly well." Infalible for coughs and colds. 50c and \$1.00 bottles guaranteed by National Drug Store and Grants Pass Pharmacy. Trial bottles free.

If you know of a birth, marriage or death, we would be pleased to have you notify us in time for publication in Courier.

MAIL AND BAGGAGE BURNED

Wreck on the Southern Pacific Near Tehama.

A fireman killed and a mail clerk probably fatally wounded was the result of what might have been a most disastrous wreck on the Oregon express, two miles south of Tehama, early Sunday morning.

Had it not been for the heroic action of Engineer Boucher in sticking to his post of duty in his wrecked engine in the face of almost certain death, it is highly probable that every car in the first section of the train would have plunged through a burning trestle into one of the many branches of the Sacramento river.

The first section of train No. 16 was slightly behind time leaving Marysville, and Boucher was making extra speed on that account. Beside several heavily loaded Pullmans and the diner, there was a mail car and the entire outfit of the "Florodora" Company. This consisted of two sleepers and two baggage cars, loaded with scenery and trunks. Just as the engine rounded a light curve at Soma, Boucher saw flames licking up the bridge abutment of him. He applied the air and yelled to the fireman, Charles Morris, to stick to the engine.

The great machine left the track and plowed over the trestle on the ties. Morris jumped, and the tender followed him to the river bottom, crushing the life from him.

The mail car and Clerks Bryne and Southworth went through next, followed by an empty day coach and a car of scenery. Two members of the opera company rescued the mail clerks from the flames, while the engineer and other passengers pulled out the mangled remains of Morris.

The prompt work of Boucher while sticking to his post undoubtedly saved the theatre and tourist sleepers from going into the seething mass of flames. The theatre people rescued a 'load of baggage, but their scenery was completely destroyed.

Boucher was immediately presented with \$100 by grateful passengers, and a subsequent collection raised the whole pure to \$300, part of which will go to aid Southworth, the injured mailman.

The remaining cars of the train were sent around by way of Woodland, starting for Portland 18 hours late.

The accident was caused by a fire underneath the trestle, burning away the supports. The origin of the fire is as yet undetermined.

About 100 feet of the trestle was burned, and wreckage of all kinds is strewn along the trestle for a distance of a quarter of a mile.

It is expected several days will elapse before travel can be resumed on the east side of the river.

WHOLESALE INDICTMENTS

By U. S. Grand Jury for Land Frauds.

The United States grand jury last Tuesday returned an indictment against former United States Commissioner Marie L. Ware, Horace G. McKinley and S. A. D. Pater, charging them with forgery in connection with that clause of the information filed previously by United States District Attorney Hall relating to the uttering of forged signatures in the Southern Oregon land fraud cases. The specific charges are that Miss Ware, McKinley and Pater have been guilty of forging the names of fictitious persons and those of other persons to homestead applications and final papers, with the intent in so doing to defraud the government of the United States out of its public lands.

On Thursday the federal grand jury returned indictments against Emma L. Watson, Guy Huff and Norman Williams, in connection with the land frauds. The woman is charged with conspiracy in connection with the proceedings against Miss Ware, commissioner of the United States who already is under indictment, and Williams is charged with forgery in connection with the Nesbitt case. The proceedings against Huff are for forgery.

The grand jury also returned another indictment against Miss Ware, McKinley and S. A. D. Pater.

Another indictment was returned Thursday by the United States grand jury against Norman Williams on the charge of forging the name of Alma Nesbitt to a homestead relinquishment and brings to light the details of what was probably a double murder in Wasco county. In March, 1900, Williams met Mrs. Nesbitt and her daughter at Hood River and started to drive through to their homesteads, some 27 miles distant. After leaving Hood River the woman never was seen again. Williams is a fugitive and it is supposed he is somewhere on Canadian soil.

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